

# Heritage Partnership Program Catalogue 2004

## *Call for Proposals*



This catalogue describes some of the ways the Commission is working in the Valley and outlines the process for requesting assistance for your project. As you look through the catalogue and explore our site, envision how your project fits within the Corridor's goals, where similar efforts may already be underway, and where there may be opportunities for reaching a broader audience through collaboration.

John H. Chafee

**BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY**

National Heritage Corridor Commission



## The Heritage Partnership Program

The Corridor is funded through the National Park Service, but unlike traditional national parks that are owned and managed by the Federal government, the Corridor owns no property and is managed by a unique public-private partner-

*Do you have a resource  
that needs attention?  
An organization  
that needs assistance?  
A great idea?*

ship. The Corridor Commission functions as a partner with interested governmental agencies, public and private organizations, and individuals. The Commission can support projects in a variety of ways: through partial funding; through advocacy; through identifying funding sources; or through connections with other organizations that provide financial or technical assistance.

This year, \$745,000 has been made available for implementing the Corridor Plan. Many large scale projects are underway including the Blackstone River Bikeway, restoring the health of the Blackstone River, tourism development and marketing, cultural programming, development of the Northern Gateway Visitor Center in Worcester, preserving historic treasures such as the Chestnut Hill Meeting House and the Daniels Farm, and undertaking a growth management strategy that includes various

tools for making sound decisions on community development. In the spring of 2004, the Commission is making available approximately \$500,000 to fund projects that support Corridor goals and carry out plans and initiatives that have been developed by the Corridor in collaboration with local communities.

The Commission is initiating this "Call for Proposals" in order to identify and prioritize projects and to further define its work plan for the coming years. This Heritage Partnership Catalogue outlines various resources that the Corridor Commission can offer to interested towns, organizations and individuals. It is an overview of some of the ways the Heritage Partnership Program can help you...

- Tell the story of the Valley in your community
- Save a critical "piece" of the story
- Experience the Valley and share it with visitors
- Make Blackstone Valley communities the types of places we all want to live and work in

It is a guide for applicants to determine which type of assistance best fits their project. But it should also serve to inspire new ideas. We encourage applicants to submit proposals for projects that may not be shown in the catalogue but fit within the scope of the Corridor's mission. We are always looking for new ideas on how to build and strengthen the network for telling the story of the Valley and making the Valley a better place to live and work.



### The Corridor Boundaries

**The American Industrial Revolution began in the Blackstone River Valley. It changed the landscape of the Valley and transformed life in America. Recognizing its significance, Congress established the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission to assist in protecting and celebrating the Birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution – join us!**



Preserving historic landscapes

# *We can help you see it...*

facilitation  
 mediation  
 consultation  
 economic analysis & development  
 community planning assistance  
 community workshops  
 regional meetings  
 land protection tools  
 The Institute  
 community visioning  
 seminars  
 strategic planning

## **Developing the community you want to live and work in**

We encourage communities and organizations to explore options and develop “visions” of how they want their community to be in the future. Short term technical assistance to help communities guide new investments, preserve historic resources, manage growth, conserve open space and/or respond to local opportunities and issues can be provided. Assistance can range from a series of community workshops to the development of master plans.

Organizations and communities can access tools for evaluating options, enhancing public involvement and making decisions about local resources.



# *We can help you save it...*

re-use of historic mills  
 and commercial buildings  
 rehabilitation of historic properties  
 river recovery  
 archaeology  
 curating artifacts  
 natural site restoration or reclamation  
 landscape preservation

Rehabilitation of historic buildings  
 like the Riverfront Lofts



## **Saving the important buildings, places and artifacts that are pieces of the Valley's story**

### *Historic Resources*

The Commission supports organizations for the protection of their historic structures, landscapes and artifacts. To qualify, buildings and landscapes should be on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. While the Commission cannot provide actual building construction dollars or the purchase of real estate, we can provide consultation, guidance, and direct resources to assist with decision-making. Some of the tools we can provide funds for are feasibility studies and other specialized development studies

(i.e. condition assessment reports, tax act studies, economic analyses, curatorial management/collections evaluations, etc.).

Archaeological research that uncovers the hidden history of the Valley and informs the public about the past is also supported.

### *Water Resources*

Of high priority to the Commission are restoration and reclamation projects that serve to stabilize and protect water resources, the Blackstone Canal, and other natural or cultural sites in the Valley.



Teaching traditional trades,  
arts & crafts and performances.



# We can help you share it...

brochures  
videos  
exhibits  
heritage sites  
tours  
traditional arts



Sites and programs that help tell the story of the Valley at places like the Kelly House in Lincoln, RI.

## Exploring the Valley and learning about its history, nature & culture

### *Informational Media*

The Corridor Commission has an established system of brochures with a unique Corridor identity that provides information about the places and resources in the Valley while connecting each site to the rest of the Valley through its recognizable design. Self-guided walking tours that tell the story of individual sites or communities and their relation to the history of the Valley and site brochures that help to describe places related to the Valley's story that visitors might want to visit are two types of brochures. Requests for other types of brochures can be considered. Support for the development, design and printing may be provided. The Commission also supports local communities or organizations in the development of videos for use on cable public access stations that help to tell the history of the Valley, educate about the environment or inform residents about local issues.

### *Exhibits*

Support may be provided for the development of indoor or outdoor exhibits that help to tell the story of the Valley to both visitors and residents, and permanent or traveling exhibits that help educate people about the historic, natural or

recreational resources in the Valley. In the past, the Commission has assisted with the development of exhibits for places like the Museum of Work & Culture in Woonsocket, RI, River Bend Farm in Uxbridge, MA, Slater Mill Historic Site and the Blackstone Valley Visitors Center in Pawtucket, RI.

### *Heritage Sites*

If your organization has a public site that could help to tell the story of the Valley and/or can help provide information for visitors to the Valley, the Commission can help support the development of your site into a "part of the Valley experience," or an informational stop for visitors.

### *Traditional Artisans*

Helping to support the folk and cultural traditions of the Blackstone Valley is important to retaining a true sense of

who we are and celebrating the diverse ethnic makeup of the Valley. The Commission supports activities that help to perpetuate an understanding of Valley heritage – the traditional music, dance, language, crafts and trades that connect us to our past.



The Greenway Challenge helps publicize the Blackstone as a recreational resource.

Recreational development and education



# We can help you do it...

trails  
river access  
public education  
non-point source pollution prevention  
water conservation  
vernal pool identification & certification  
canoeing skills & river safety programs  
marketing  
tourism  
events  
streambank stabilization  
water quality improvement  
ZAP projects

Environmental  
education projects

## Educating people about the Valley, its story and its diverse resources

### *Educational Programs*

The Commission supports organizations in developing educational programs about the Valley's history, culture, or natural resources or to teach recreational skills. Some examples of the types of programs we can help with include local history, environmental education and resource monitoring, canoeing skills and cultural presentations.

### *Heritage Tourism and Marketing*

Technical assistance to develop tourism and marketing plans or cultivate ideas can be provided to communities or organizations looking to balance tourism and

local resource issues. How can your organization or business tie into the Corridor and use heritage tourism techniques effectively?

### *Events and Celebrations*

Support may be provided for planning and coordinating successful events that build organizational capacity, teach the public and celebrate the Valley's history, culture, natural resources or recreational opportunities.

### *Research*

Support can be provided for studies, pilot and demonstration projects that help to foster informed, balanced decision-making about the Valley's resources.

### *Recreational Development*

The Commission can provide support for planning a greenway, building a trail, cleaning up a site, or making the river accessible in your community.

### *River Recovery*

The Commission can help organizations and communities clean up the river and assist in projects that improve water quality.



# Priorities

The Heritage Partnership Program offers towns, non-profit organizations, government agencies and individuals the opportunity to be a part of a vital regional collaborative effort. Extra consideration is given to those projects that provide connections through multiple organizational involvement, that link sites and stories, and that help to create a regional sense of place.

Assistance is available for projects that further the Commission's strategic development goals in the areas of:

**HERITAGE INFRASTRUCTURE** – signs, trails, exhibits, and other elements which together tell the story of the Valley.

**HERITAGE PROGRAMMING** – educational programs, living history, arts and crafts, festivals, tourism development and marketing, and other elements which go hand-in-hand with heritage infrastructure.

**STRATEGIC DESIGN AND PLANNING** – technical assistance to guide new investment that preserves historic resources, helps communities manage growth and conserve natural open space, and responds to opportunities which preserve the Valley's special character.

**PRESERVATION & ENHANCEMENT** – targeted community revitalization and economic development, building restoration, preservation of historic landscapes, etc.

**RIVER RECOVERY & RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** – park development, canoe access sites, river clean-up projects, environmental education, trail development, habitat restoration, land protection, etc.

**BLACKSTONE VALLEY INSTITUTE** – The Institute is a resource center for bringing citizens, local officials, experts, the business community and others together to respond to critical issues related to the Corridor. Examples of Institute programs include creative approaches to land-use and growth, natural resource protection, community revitalization, coordination of interpretive sites and programs, volunteer development, grant writing, etc.

# How to Submit a Proposal

Proposals may be submitted by towns, non-profit organizations, government agencies and individuals. Projects must be within the boundaries of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. Projects funded under this program should demonstrate the ability to provide funding matches, either monetary or in-kind (examples of in-kind matches include non-cash contributions such as: donated volunteer services, employee salaries, supplies and materials, etc.). Additional consideration will be given to those projects that provide a greater non-federal match. All projects must fit within the scope of the Corridor's mission as described in detail in its Cultural Heritage Land Management Plan and amendment, *The Next Ten Years*. Both documents are available on the web or upon request.

## RESPONSE FORMAT

The application process consists of two rounds. The preliminary round is a one-page application to be completed either via the web or hard copy. To complete the application via the web, go to [www.nps.gov/blac/who/funding.htm](http://www.nps.gov/blac/who/funding.htm). To complete the application and submit by mail, print the application and mail to the Corridor Offices at One Depot Square, Woonsocket, RI 02895. Applications may also be obtained by calling the office at 401-762-0250.

Proposals should be formatted in a 12 pt. font or equivalent size to this type. Applications must be received by 5 pm on March 12, 2004 to qualify. Those projects qualifying through round one will be required to submit a more detailed application for round two.

An informational meeting is scheduled to provide an overview of activities within the Heritage Corridor and opportunities to develop collaborative efforts with others. It is our pleasure to have Dr. John Mullin, Director of the Center for Economic Development at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, participating in this meeting. As many of you know, Dr. Mullin has worked extensively with Blackstone Valley communities on planning issues as well as economic development projects.

The meeting is scheduled for February 26th at the Holiday Express, 194 Fortin Drive, Woonsocket, RI from 3:00-5:30 p.m.

So if you have been actively involved in projects and programs that intersect with the mission and goals of the Corridor Commission... Or perhaps your organization is seeking to build cooperative connections with others in the 24 cities and towns in the Heritage Corridor... This is an opportunity to learn more about the collective goals and possible funding sources.

First Round Application Form

# *Heritage Partnership Program*

**PROJECT TITLE:**

SPONSORING ORGANIZATION(S):

PRIMARY CONTACT:

NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

DESCRIBE THE GOAL OF THE PROJECT.

HOW DOES THIS PROJECT ENHANCE CORRIDOR GOALS?

PROVIDE PROJECT SCHEDULE AND BUDGET

FUNDING AND/OR ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FROM COMMISSION.

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE CORRIDOR OFFICE BY 5:00PM, MARCH 12, 2004:**

John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, One Depot Square, Woonsocket, Rhode Island 02895